

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the value and contribution our City's Park system contributes to our shared quality of life by providing healthy outdoor recreation and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, our Parks provide a connection to our natural environment, promote public health and significantly contribute to the visual character of our City; and

WHEREAS, the preservation, enhancement, and expansion of our Parks is an important aspect that contributes toward meeting our goal to be the most livable City in the country; and

WHEREAS, increasing demands on our Parks by growing populations and their popularity as venues for events, particularly at Auditorium Shores and Zilker Park, are creating challenges to our quality of life and conflicts with scheduling, and are stressing the parks' vitality and surrounding infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 the Austin City Council created a Park Land Policy Committee to discuss the need for a City of Austin's events policy for City Parks; and

WHEREAS, in July 1998 the Parks and Recreation Board adopted a PARD Special Events Policy establishing an event limit for city of Austin Parks and then administratively updated in 2007; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive analysis of impacts from events at Auditorium Shores and Zilker Park, and provide recommendations on a balanced solution that enhances public use and enjoyment of Austin's public park system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the stakeholders shall consist of representatives from the Parks and Recreation Board, the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board, the Urban Transportation Commission, adjacent neighborhoods, impacted venue producers, venue users and businesses, and the Long Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the analysis should include incorporation of the Parks and Recreation Departments Special Events Policy and the Street Event Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the analysis shall also include an assessment of impacts that limitations on the use of Auditorium Shores and Zilker Park may have on other parks, such as Fiesta Gardens and Festival Beach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the comprehensive analysis will address

- impacts of increasing the number and size of events on the parklands and a determination on whether any adjustment to the number of events is appropriate
- park event scheduling, coordination, and assessment of capacities, event related fees and policies, and impacts to surrounding neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure
- identification of opportunities for new venues to accommodate events; including an assessment of their carrying capacities and impacts to surrounding neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure
- comprehensive traffic and parking studies
- identification of appropriate mechanisms to ensure that fees by all rental groups of our city parks are collected and used for the maintenance and repairs for any post-event issues
- a review of the existing Park Rental policies

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the City Manager is directed to bring the recommendations back to City Council for approval by March 1, 2013.